AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 51, amend claims 29, 30, 32, 36, 46, and 50 without prejudice to pursue the original claims in related application(s), and insert new claim 62, as follow. A complete listing of the claims is provided below.

1.   (Previously Presented) A method for executing a business process, comprising:

obtaining an entity model representative of an entity to which a task associated with said business process can be assigned, wherein said entity model comprises information regarding a work efficiency of said entity;

obtaining a work model representative of a task to be assigned to said entity; and

assigning said task to said entity based on said entity model and said work model to thereby carry out said business process.

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said entity is selected from the group consisting of a person, a group of persons, a machine, a device, a software, a company, an association, and a country.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said entity model is obtained by selecting an entity template from a plurality of available entity templates, each of said plurality of available entity templates associated with an entity to which a task can be assigned.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said entity model is obtained by creating said entity model.

5.　　(Original) The method of claim 4, wherein said creating includes generating a record, assigning an entity identification to the record, and inputting an attribute to the record, said attribute representative of a characteristic of said entity.

6.　　(Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said entity model is obtained by retrieving said entity model from a data base.

7.　　(Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said work model is obtained by selecting a task template from a plurality of available task templates, each of said plurality of task templates associated with a task that can be assigned to an entity.

8.　　(Original) The method of claim 7, wherein each of the available task templates includes an instruction for performing a task.

9.　　(Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said work model is obtained by creating said work model.

10.　　(Original) The method of claim 9, wherein said creating comprises inputting one or more tasks to be performed by an entity.

11.　　(Original) The method of claim 9, wherein said creating comprises inputting an instruction for performing a task.

12.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said work model is obtained by retrieving said work model from a data base.

13.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising creating a business process model using said entity model and said work model.

14.   (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said creating said business process model comprises constructing a flow chart, said flow chart having at least one work step.

15.   (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein said at least one work step represents said task that is to be assigned to said entity.

16.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said assigning is performed by a software or a human.

17.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising collecting data associated with work performed by said entity.

18.   (Original) The method of claim 17, further comprising comparing said data with data associated with a previously created business process.

19.   (Original) The method of claim 18, further comprising optimizing said business process based on said comparing.

4

20.   (Original) The method of claim 19, further comprising creating a business process model using said entity model and said work model, wherein said creating said business process model comprises constructing a flow chart, said flow chart having a work step, and said optimizing comprising substituting said work step with a previously created work step.

21.   (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein said optimizing comprises substituting said work model with a previously created work model.

22.   (Original) The method of claim 19, further comprising adopting said optimized business process as a standard.

23-28. (Canceled)

29.   (Currently Amended) A method for optimizing a business process involving a task, said method comprising:

        obtaining data regarding a result of a performance of said task;

        comparing said data with data associated with regarding a result of a previously performed task for a previously created business process; and

        automatically determining an optimized business process based at least on said comparing.

30.　(Currently Amended) The method of claim 29, wherein said data <u>regarding the result of the</u> <u>performance of said task</u> is selected from the group consisting of cost of performing said task, time required to perform said task, and number of persons involved in performing said task.

31.　(Original) The method of claim 29, wherein said automatically determining is performed using a software or a device.

32.　(Currently Amended) A computer product having <u>a computer-readable medium for storing</u> a set of ~~stored~~ instructions, the execution of which by a processor causes a process to be performed, the process comprising providing an entity template representative of an entity to which a task associated with a business process can be assigned, wherein said entity template comprises information regarding a work efficiency of said entity.

33.　(Original) The computer product of claim 32, wherein said process further comprises providing a work template representative of a task which can be assigned to said entity.

34.　(Original) The computer product of claim 33, wherein said process further comprises assigning said task to said entity.

35.　(Original) The computer product of claim 32, wherein said entity is selected from the group consisting of a person, a group of persons, a machine, a device, a software, a company, an association, and a country.

36.   (Currently Amended) A computer product having a computer-readable medium for storing a set of stored instructions, the execution of which causes a process to be performed, said process comprising providing a user interface for allowing a user to create an entity model representative of an entity to which a task associated with a business process can be assigned, wherein said entity model comprises information regarding a work efficiency of said entity.

37.   (Original) The computer product of claim 36, wherein said process further comprises providing a user interface for allowing a user to create a work model representative of a task that can be assigned to said entity.

38.   (Original) The computer product of claim 37, wherein said process further comprises assigning said task to said entity.

39.   (Original) The computer product of claim 36, wherein said entity is selected from the group consisting of a person, a group of persons, a machine, a processor, a software, a company, an association, and a country.

40-45. (Canceled)

46.   (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented system for business process automation and optimization, comprising:

        a business process creation module for allowing a user to create an entity model and a business process model that represents a business process, said business process model having one

7

or more work steps, wherein said entity model represents an entity to which a task associated with said business process can be assigned, said entity model comprising information regarding a work efficiency of said entity; and

a business process execution and monitoring module configured to assign one or more tasks to one or more entities based on said business process model;

wherein said business process creation module is implemented at least in part by a processor.

47.   (Original) The system of claim 46, further comprising a business process analysis and optimization module for optimizing a business process based on data collected from execution of said one or more tasks.

48.   (Original) The system of claim 46, further comprising a business process simulation module for checking said business process model for errors.

49.   (Original) The system of claim 46, wherein said one or more entities are selected from the group consisting of a person, a group of persons, a machine, a device, a software, a company, an association, and a country.

50.   (Currently Amended) A method for executing a business process, comprising:

obtaining an entity model representative of a person to which a task associated with said business process can be assigned, wherein said entity model comprises information regarding a work efficiency of said person;

obtaining a work model representative of a task to be assigned to said person;

assigning said task to said person based on said entity model and said work model to thereby carry out said business process;

wherein said act of assigning said task is performed using a processor, which is configured to transmit a message to said person to instruct said person to perform said task.

51. (Canceled).

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 50, wherein said entity model is obtained by selecting an entity template from a plurality of available entity templates.

53. (Previously Presented) A method for executing a business process, comprising:

obtaining an entity model representative of an entity to which a task associated with said business process can be assigned;

obtaining a work model representative of a task to be assigned to said entity;

assigning said task to said entity based on said entity model and said work model to thereby carry out said business process;

receiving information regarding a result of an activity performed by said entity; and

proposing a change in said business process based on said information.

54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 53, wherein said entity model comprises information regarding a work efficiency of said entity.

55.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 53, wherein said act of proposing said change is performed by a processor.

56.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 53, wherein said act of assigning is performed by a processor, which is configured to transmit a message to said entity to instruct said entity to perform said task.

57.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 53, wherein said entity model is obtained by selecting an entity template from a plurality of available entity templates.

58.   (Previously Presented) A system for executing a business process, comprising a processor that is configured for:

obtaining an entity model representative of an entity to which a task associated with said business process can be assigned;

obtaining a work model representative of a task to be assigned to said entity;

assigning said task to said entity based on said entity model and said work model to thereby carry out said business process;

receiving information regarding a result of an activity performed by said entity; and

proposing a change in said business process based on said information.

59.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 58, wherein said entity model comprises information regarding a work efficiency of said entity.

60. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 58, wherein said processor is configured for obtaining said entity model by providing a user interface for allowing a user to input data regarding said entity.

61. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 58, wherein said processor is configured for assigning said task by sending a message to said entity to instruct said entity to perform said task.

62. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein said business process comprises one or more tasks desired to be performed by one or more entities.